



UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20415

October 7, 1974

74-4904/2
White House

MEMORANDUM FOR HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

In his memorandum of September 20, President Ford spoke of a career civil service free from political considerations and called upon each of us to see to it that "the merit principles contained in the Civil Service Act and the personnel laws and regulations are fully and effectively carried out" Our charge is clear.

We must all turn our immediate attention to specific actions that can be taken to insure that appointments and promotions within the career service are based solely on merit and without regard to either politics, race, creed or sex. Moreover, we must make certain that all personnel actions relating to competitive positions themselves, including the way they are described, the way they are established, and the way we seek qualified people to fill them, meet both the letter and the intent of applicable personnel laws and regulations.

I know that you will want to take steps to insure that every executive, manager, and supervisor within your agency is both fully aware of the President's memorandum and is personally committed to the integrity of day-to-day personnel operations. Employees who have a basis for believing that personnel laws or rules are being violated, and the matter is not appropriate for the grievance or appeals procedures, should know that there is an official within each department or agency to whom they can provide the facts, without fear of reprisal, and that appropriate inquiry and action will follow. In addition, I urge that you utilize your own internal systems of personnel management evaluation as an essential element in assuring continuing compliance with personnel laws and merit principles.

Obviously, there are a number of actions that can and must be taken to insure compliance with the President's memorandum. I would appreciate hearing from you by November 29 regarding the particular actions you have taken to carry out the President's instructions. ✓

The Commission will be taking further initiatives in this regard, in addition to those we have under way already and, as always, we stand ready to assist you in this effort by providing upon your request appropriate briefings and advice and assistance on particular questions or problems that might arise.

Robert E. Hampton
Robert E. Hampton
Chairman

THE MERIT SYSTEM—A GOOD INVESTMENT IN GOOD GOVERNMENT

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